

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising:

an ink-jet head that has an ink ejection surface on which a plurality of nozzles are arrayed;

a medium carrier that forms a carrying surface on which a record medium is carried;

a carriage ~~mounted with~~ that mounts the ink-jet head such that the ink ejection surface confronts the carrying surface;

a carriage drive mechanism that includes a plurality of parallel guide rods supporting the carriage and extending across ~~the~~ a direction where the record medium is carried by the medium carrier, the carriage drive mechanism reciprocating the carriage along the guide rods; and

a guide shift mechanism that shifts the plurality of guide rods in a direction where ~~the~~ a gap between the ink ejection surface and the carrying surface ~~varies~~ varies, the guide shift mechanism including:

gears, each gear supporting one of the guide rods at an eccentric position and having a center of rotation at a position different from the eccentric position, a rotation of the gears causing the guide rods to shift; and

a slidable torquer having a rack directly engaged with the gears, and imparting a torque to the gears to rotate the gears.
- 2-6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to ~~claim 6,~~ claim 1, wherein the torquer is provided with a knob.

8. (Currently Amended) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to ~~claim 2,~~
claim 1, wherein each guide rod is supported by ~~a couple two~~ two of the ~~rotators-gears~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the carriage drive mechanism includes:

pairs of pulleys each having a rotational axis orthogonal to the guide rods, a
~~couple two~~ two of the pulleys making up each pair being separated from each other along the
guide rods; and

a plurality of carriage drive belts each wrapped around the pair of pulleys.

10. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising:
an ink-jet head that has an ink ejection surface on which a plurality of nozzles
are arrayed;

a medium carrier that forms a carrying surface on which a record medium is
carried;

a carriage that holds the ink-jet head such that the ink ejection surface
confronts the carrying surface; and

a guide shift mechanism that includes a pair of parallel guide rods ~~that support~~
supporting the carriage, a pair of gears that support each supporting one end of one of the
guide rods at an eccentric positions, position, a pair of eccentric cams that is each disposed at
the other end of one of the guide rods and ~~that have~~ having the same ~~dimeters~~ diameter as
~~those that~~ of the gears, and a slidable torquer having a racks that engage rack directly engaged
respectively with a the pair of the gears that support the one end of the pair of guide rods,
gears, and imparting a torque to the gears to rotate the gears, the racks slidable in a direction
where the gears rotate, wherein

sliding of the racks causes rotation of the gears so that the pair of guide rods is
shifted to thereby adjust the gap between the ink ejection surface and the carrying surface.